

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of February 12 - February 16, 2007**

1. THIS SUNDAY! Go Green at Home Conference 10:30 am to 5:00 pm (City-wide):

Don't forget the "Go Green at Home - Takoma Park Green Building Conference" this Sunday, February 18 from 10:30am to 5:00pm at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (at the corner of Maple and Philadelphia Avenues). Yes - you can register the day of the conference! Enjoy a choice of over twenty speakers discussing topics as wide ranging as green finishes for both the interior and exterior of your home, strategies for water conservation, landscaping with plants native to Montgomery County, rain gardens, rain barrels, green roofs, low cost energy saving measures that you can do today, and alternative energy resources. At 11:00am, keynote speaker John Spears of Sustainable Design Group, Inc., will discuss the creation of sustainable communities and the importance of solar energy in home designs. Visit with participating vendors and exhibitors - nineteen in all - and learn more about the green resources available in our community. Registration is \$5 at the door beginning at 10:30am. For more information, go to "Upcoming Events" at www.takomaparkmd.gov. (*Housing and Community Development*)

2. City Offices Closed: City administrative offices will be closed on Monday, February 19, in celebration of President's Day. On Friday, February 23, the City will close at 10:45am for Employee Appreciation Day, except for the Recreation Department and Community Center which will open again from 5:00pm to 10:00pm. The Police Department is always open. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

3. Gym Workshops Held: Workshops were held last Saturday and Sunday on whether or not the Takoma Park community would support constructing a gymnasium addition to the Community Center, and, if so, which option would be preferred. The results were shared with Council on February 12. Additional information will be added to the City's web site on this topic over the next week. Thank you to all of the people who attended or submitted comments! (*Community & Government Liaison*)

4. Testifying in Annapolis: On Tuesday, Mayor Kathy Porter testified before the State Senate on behalf of legislation allowing municipalities to function as electric energy aggregators. If approved, municipalities or groups of municipalities could purchase electricity on behalf of their residents if prices were lower or alternative generation goals were desired. On Thursday, Suzanne Ludlow testified in support of legislation that would help protect tenants in the event of a condominium conversion of their building. One of the bills would allow counties and municipalities to offer tax credits to developers who allow a larger number of units to remain rental in the converted buildings. Our District 20 representatives--Senator Raskin and Delegates Hixson, Hucker and Mizeur--are strong advocates on these issues. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

5. Next Week in Annapolis: During the week of February 19, there will be a Housing Day where lobbying on behalf of affordable housing initiatives will take place, and staff will testify at hearings on legislation requiring the removal of mercury switches from junked vehicles. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

6. Erie/Flower Commercial Area Master Plan Workshop - Thursday, Feb 22 (Ward 5): The first workshop to review the Master Plan and identify small scale improvements will be held this coming Thursday, February 22 in the Columbia Room of Wilkinson Hall

at Columbia Union College from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. A pizza dinner will be served. Neighborhood residents, businesses and other area stakeholders are invited. The workshop will review the vision and recommendations of the 2000 Master Plan for the Erie/Flower Avenue Commercial area and work with participants to identify and prioritize small scale projects for the neighborhood commercial area. For more information please contact Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner at ilonab@takomagov.org or (301) 891-7205. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. New Employee: The Recreation Department is pleased to welcome our new Assistant Director, Gregory Clark, who began working with us on Monday, February 12, 2007. Gregory comes to us from Prince Georges County Maryland National Capital Park and Planning with 12 years of experience in parks and recreation. He has received a Bachelor of Science from Virginia State University and a Master's of Science in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. Gregory was recently inducted into the Flag Football Hall of Fame. He is married with three children. *(Recreation)*

8. Friends Reading Group: The upcoming Friends Reading Group book discussion of John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" has been re-scheduled for Wed., February 21st following this week's bad weather. The discussion, facilitated by Merrill Leffler, will be held in the 3rd floor lobby of the Community Center and is open to all. *(Library)*

9. The Craft Event: Monday evenings Valentine's Day craft event drew more than 50 young children and care-givers. The holiday craft programs are increasingly popular, and materials are paid for by the Friends of the Library. *(Library)*

10. Poets in the Making: Last week Karen MacPherson did an introduction to poetry with two third grade classes, focusing on the work of African American poets in honor of Black History Month. During February she will do the program with all seven of the third grade classes at Piney Branch Elementary. *(Library)*

11. Friends Annual Meeting: Tuesday, March 27th is the date chosen by the Friends of the Library for their annual meeting and Board election. Members of the Friends will elect a treasurer and two members at large. There will also be refreshments, entertainment and socializing at this event which is scheduled for 7:30pm in the Library. All are invited to attend and learn more about the Friends and their activities, though only current members may vote in the election. *(Library)*

12. What's Coming Up?: Look for a new Bedtime Story Hour, a special 'Lapsit' program series for babies and their mothers, and more craft programs and special storytelling events in the months ahead. *(Library)*

13. Favorite Poem Evening: The Library's 9th annual Favorite Poem Evening will be held on Thursday, April 26th. Takoma Park's Poet Laureate Don Berger will host this special event to be held in the Library at 7:30p.m. Participants are invited to come and read a favorite published poem written by someone other than themselves. For further information, contact Ellen Robbins at the Library at 301-891-7258. *(Library)*

14. What's on TV?: City TV covered the Jazz Band Brawl last Sunday Feb. 11. Performances from that event should be available in March. City TV will be broadcasting parts of the Green Building Conference this Sunday. *(CityTV)*

15. An Officer in Training: A/Lt. Collington completed a course of instruction titled, "Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) for Incident Managers" Training in Aberdeen, MD. Other mid-level managers in the department underwent the training in spring of 2005, prior to his promotion to that level. It is part of the National Incident Management training requirements in accordance with the National Response Plan. (*Police*)